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Sparrow family "there is little or no difference in the colors of the male and female," the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting and Nonpareil being familiar examples to the contrary. Perching birds, the author tells us, have "short legs with slender toes having many joints, the better to cling to the perch," but he will find that the other groups with which he contrasts them have just as many "joints," birds being remarkably constant in this respect and the exceptions few. Again we are told that in the autumn the gay suits of the males of many species "are doffed and sober colored coats better adapted for travel are put on." Had the author paused to think he must have realized that these very birds had traveled successfully in their brilliant spring garb on the northward flight and he would have sought some other reason for the change. There is throughout, a misleading use of the word "variety" for "species." These terms have distinct meanings in natural history and such careless usage tends to bewilder the reader. The author's idea of what is meant by classification is decidedly hazy, since he states that the classification of the A. O. U. is adopted, but apart from the fact that the members of some of the larger groups like the Sparrows and Woodpeckers are arranged together there is no attempt at classification whatever.

These and other misstatements can easily be corrected in another edition but it is a great pity that the book was not placed in the hands of some competent critic before publication, as was done in the case of Mr. Moseley's little work. Mr. Pearson's foreword is well enough as an exposition of the importance of bird study but it is obvious that he was not given the opportunity of reading the manuscript. The illustrations are in part from the leaflets of the National Association of Audubon Societies while others are early efforts of Mr. Fuertes which appeared originally in 'Citizen Bird' and elsewhere.— W. S.

Stephens on the Birds of San Diego County, California.— This well printed list [1] covers 320 species and subspecies which the author has established as having occurred in the county. The annotations are brief and describe the general nature of the bird's occurrence with data for rare captures, while under the family headings are given some mention of the habits of the species. Mr. Stephens is a well known authority on the birds of the region of which he writes and his list is an important addition to the literature of California ornithology. By a slip of the compositor we notice that the Nevada Cowbird appears in the Corvidæ instead of with its allies in the Icteridæ.— W. S.

Swarth on New Subspecies of Passerella iliaca.— An exhaustive study of the Californian Fox Sparrows leads Mr. Swarth to separate [2]

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[1] An Annotated List of the Birds of San Diego County, California. By Frank Stephens. Transactions San Diego Society of Natural History, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 142–180. February 15, 1919.

[2] Three New Species of Passerella iliaca. By H. S. Swarth. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., Vol. 31, pp. 161–164. December 30, 1918.